

Message

From: Neuschler, Catherine (MPCA) [catherine.neuschler@state.mn.us]
Sent: 3/9/2022 2:05:38 PM
To: Keclik, Donna [keclik.donna@epa.gov]
Subject: Birch Lake
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

Hi Donna -

Here is the basic outline of the response on Birch Lake:

- Yes, Birch Lake is a water used for production of wild rice
- Embayments still need to be considered; drivers are usually hydrological isolation, variations in depth and morphometry.
 - MPCA needs to look at the data, these bays are very small compared to overall lake
 - MPCA will work on getting information to better consider
- Since the lake is considered one waterbody for now, we combine all data
 - Long discussion of what data is needed and how it should be collected and why the data from two commenters (Water Legacy and Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness) is not sufficient
 - Brief discussion of data from 1854, which could be added to the assessment but we do not have it in our database; quick review shows that even adding it does not push to impaired status, also it should be considered more carefully because it is not the same as representative of the whole lake
- We appreciate all the information; comment raise issues that are important to consider
 - MPCA will continue to look at Birch Lake and gather data
 - Anyone who wants to gather data that is use in assessment should work with us

I did share the additional info from 1854 with Paul. We are planning a long data discussion with the Tribes to try to make sure we get all their data into EQUIS (or WQX). I think we are also likely to need a big picture conversation on whether baying lakes will become more necessary due to the wild rice sulfate standard and how we would do that. But that's still just an idea germinating in my head.

-Catherine

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